



State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913  
PH (517) 373.6960 | FAX (517) 373.0897  
[www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/jelinek/](http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/jelinek/)

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Contact: Sen. Ron Jelinek  
1-866-305-2121

## **Community colleges to receive funding rebate**

**LANSING** – Community colleges will receive a 3-percent rebate from the state if they keep their tuition increases during the 2004-2005 school year to 2.8 percent or less under the community college budget passed Thursday, announced Sen. Ron Jelinek, R-Three Oaks.

“Our community colleges continue to do an excellent job and continue to be fiscally responsible,” Jelinek said. “They deserve the 3-percent rebate for maintaining the line and keeping tuition increases low.”

Community colleges were originally told they needed to keep tuition increases below 2.4 percent. They will now be allowed to raise tuition during the second semester as long as they stay at or below 2.8 percent total for the school year.

“Although community colleges don’t have the same financial difficulties as major colleges and universities, keeping tuition low is still a burden for them,” Jelinek said. “We are allowing them to raise their tuition to meet the growing needs of students and continue to operate efficiently.”

The 2.8 percent tuition restraint applies to in-state students only. It does not apply to tuition increases for out-of-state students.

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